Induction of LCA into IAF

648. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has invented Light Combat Aircraft; and

(b) if so, when these Aircrafts are likely to join Air Force?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. The state-of-the-art Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) has been indigenously developed.

(b) The Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) is likely to be obtained by end of 2005 and the Final Operational Clearance (FOC) by end of 2008.

Induction of pilotless aircrafts into army

649. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to include pilotless aircrafts in army keeping in view the security of the country and activities of Pakistan;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) whether Government would manufacture pilotless aircrafts on large scale keeping in view the requirement and long border of the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The pilotless aircrafts (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) have already been inducted and are functional in the Armed Forces. The development work of an indigenous UAV is already under way. In view of the sensitive nature of the information, it may not be in public interest to disclose further details in this regard on the Floor of the House.

Detection of unmanned Pak spy plane over Gujarat

650. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an unmanned Pak spy plane was detected over the Kutch Border of Gujarat recently;

Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the likely impact on Indian security; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Casualties of military personnel and civilians on Indo-Pak border

651. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of armed forces personnel and civilians who lost their lives in the course of exchange of fire between India-Pakistan forces during the last three months in War-like situation along Indo-Pak borders;

(b) what were the other losses along the borders during the said period; and

(c) what is the present situation along the Indo-Pak borders?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) 151 Army personnel were killed between 19th December, 2001 and 14th February, 2002 due to all causes including enemy fire, mine casualties etc. Air Force and Navy have not reported any casualty. Information on the number of civilians killed in the exchange of fire is being collected.

(b) 16 bunkers were destroyed and 14 bunkers damaged in Jammu & Kashmir during exchange of fire between December 2001 and February 2002. Civilian losses are being ascertained.

(c) Pakistan has mobilized its armed forces along the Indo-Pak Border. Our forces have also been mobilized and have occupied a balanced defensive posture and are suitably poised to ensure the security of our borders. Pakistan army activities along the International Border and Line of Control are constantly monitored and a high state of vigilance is being maintained.